

History Related to Alternative Education Programs

A5 Program Definition: A district-operated and district-controlled facility designed to provide services to at-risk populations with unique needs.

A6 Program Definition: A district-operated instructional program in a nondistrict-operated institution or school serving youth who are State Agency Children (SAC). These youth are the responsibility of the Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ), the Department of Community Based Services (DCBS), and the Department for Mental Health and Mental Retardation Services (DMHMR). Because of their special needs, State Agency Children often receive their educational services in hospital settings, juvenile detention centers, or group homes.

The local school district where state agency children reside has the responsibility of providing educational services.

1992: **Kentucky Educational Collaborative for State Agency Children (KECSAC) Established (KRS 605.110 [3])**

Currently, there are 106 A6 programs in 54 school districts.

1998: **Kentucky Center for School Safety (KCSS) Established (KRS 158.442)**

KCSS provides funding to all school districts to establish safe and secure learning environments. Eighty percent (80%) of KCSS funds to districts have been spent to create and/or support A5 alternative education programs.

2002: The Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) reviewed accountability issues for alternative education schools (in 2002 still considered schools). KBE confirmed its commitment to improving academic success and requested that KDE look into ways to improve quality of academic services.

2004: **703 KAR 5:040** was modified to replace “school” with “program” when referring to educational services provided in facilities other than A1 schools. The regulation also stated that KDE will establish an alternative education committee to review conditions in and achievement of A5 and A6 programs and make recommendations for improvement of educational services.

2005: Alternative Education Committee met in June 2005 and discussed the components of model alternative education programs. The committee also discussed ways alternative education programs could be reviewed or monitored through a KDE or collaborative process. A set of issues was created for the KBE to review at its December 2005 meeting.

2005: Anticipating that KDE would initiate a monitoring process of alternative

education programs, a sub-committee of the Alternative Education Committee met to develop a monitoring tool based on the Standards and Indicators for School Improvement.

- 2005:** The Kentucky Board of Education met in December to review recent initiatives regarding alternative education programs. KBE approved a plan to monitor 40 A5 programs. KDE initiated a contract with the Kentucky Center for School Safety to provide the monitoring services.
- 2006:** The Kentucky Center for School Safety began a monitoring process of 40 A5 programs.
- 2006:** KECSAC presented its annual report before the February meeting of the KBE.
- 2006:** At the June meeting of the KBE, the Kentucky Center for School Safety presented findings of the monitoring process involving 40 A5 programs. As a result of concerns revealed from the monitoring, the KBE directed KDE to send correspondence to all superintendents regarding the need to provide quality services in alternative education programs. KBE also approved a plan for KDE to issue a Request for Proposals for an organization to conduct an in-depth study of alternative education programs (A5 and A6).
- 2006:** In August KDE awarded a contract to Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) to conduct an in-depth study of alternative education programs.
- 2006:** In September the Alternative Education Committee met to hear the results of the monitoring of the 40 A5 programs. Additionally, they learned of the contract with KYA to conduct the in-depth study of alternative education programs.
- 2006:** At the December KBE meeting, representatives from Kentucky Youth Advocates presented information on the status of the in-depth review of alternative education programs.
- 2007:** At the February KBE meeting, a presentation on academic and non-academic data for A5 and A6 programs was given. As a separate item, KECSAC presented its annual report.
- 2007:** At the October KBE meeting, Kentucky Youth Advocates (KYA) presented findings and recommendations from their review of alternative education programs. As a separate item, KECSAC presented a report focusing on improvements in academic achievement for students in A6 programs.
- 2007:** In November, an Action Plan for Alternative Education Initiatives was created. Also, a list of all current A5 and A6 programs in Kentucky public school districts was created. This information would be shared with the Alternative Education Advisory Committee at its meeting in December, 2007.

- 2007:** On December 19, the Alternative Education Advisory Committee met to discuss and endorse an Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs.
- 2008:** February: After reviewing the *Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6)*, the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) endorsed its implementation. KBE requested periodic updates on the status of implementation.
- 2008:** The Alternative Education Advisory Committee (AEAC) met in June to receive a status report on the *Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6)*. Additionally, the AEAC provided input and advice to the department on criteria for the designation of “Model Programs.”
- 2008:** A presentation will be made at the August KBE meeting to update the Curriculum Committee members on progress made with the *Action Plan for Alternative Education Programs (A5 and A6)*.